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EXAMINER

FISCHER, JUSTIN R

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**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

**Continuation of 3:** Applicant has amended the claim to require an axial extension of "more than 10 mm". Previously, however, the claims included the following language: at least 10 millimeters. Thus, it is clear that applicant's amendment modifies the scope of the claimed invention in a manner that would require further search and consideration.

**Continuation of 11:** Applicant's arguments are substantially directed to the amended claim language and thus, they are not commensurate in scope with the pending claim language. It is further noted that applicant points to Table 1 to demonstrate improvements resulting from the length h between the edges of the extension portion and the edges of the first belt ply. However, Present Invention 1 can only be fairly compared to Comparison Tire 1 (other examples have varied coating rubber properties). In this instance, the rolling resistance is almost identical and there is only a slight increase in tire uniformity- these experiments are not seen to constitute a conclusive showing of unexpected results.

Also, in regards to Kojima, the reference broadly suggests a coating rubber having a loss factor less than 0.1 for belt plies in order to prevent tire fatigue commonly associated with heat generation during running. A fair reading of Kojima suggests the use of such a coating rubber in belt plies in general since the disclosed benefits are desirable in all belt plies.

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